SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENTS

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MEETING OF THE

WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

Thursday, February 10, 2005
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

SCAG Offices
818 W. 7th Street, 12th Floor
Riverside B Conference Room
Los Angeles, California 90017
213. 236.1800

Agenda Enclosed

If members of the public wish to review the attachments or have any questions on any of the agenda items, please contact Dan Griset at 213.236.1895 (griset@scag.ca.gov) or visit the Task Force website at http://www.scag.ca.gov/wptf/index.htm.

SCAG, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), will accommodate persons who require a modification of accommodation in order to participate in this meeting. If you require such assistance, please contact SCAG at (213) 236-1868 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to enable SCAG to make reasonable arrangements. To request documents related to this document in an alternative format, please contact (213) 236-1868.

AGENDA

WATER POLICY TASK FORCE
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

February 10, 2005
10:00 a.m.
SCAG Offices: Riverside B Meeting Room

Page #

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Members of the public desiring to speak on an agenda item or agenda items not on the agenda, but within the purview of this committee, must notify the Secretary and fill out a speaker's card prior to speaking. Comments will be limited to three minutes. The Chair may limit the total time for comments to twenty (20) minutes.

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve the minutes of the December 9, 2004 meeting. (Minutes will be available at the meeting. They will also be posted on the Task Force website prior to the meeting,)

4.0 PRESENTATION ITEMS FOR THE TASK FORCE

4.1 A Study on The Health Implications of Perchlorate Ingestion and a State Water Resources Board Listening Session in the Region **3**

Task Force member, Gerald Greene, D.Env, P.E., will summarize the findings of a recent study on the health implications of perchlorate ingestion conducted by the National Research Council. He will also report on a State Water Resources Control Board "listening session" on stormwater regulation held in Diamond Bar on January 12, 2005.

4.2 An Introductory Dialogue with Councilmember Mary Ann Lutz, a new Member of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board **7**

Monrovia City Councilmember Mary Ann Lutz was recently appointed by the Governor to the Regional Water Board. Her appointment to the municipal government seat on the Board brings a business-oriented local official to important environmental policy work in the SCAG region. This is an opportunity for members of the Task Force to get acquainted with Mary Ann and to share views on water quality concerns affecting our region's watersheds.

4.3 Water Supply and Growth Prospects in the Mojave Basin **8**

In a continuation of Task Force reviews of future growth and water supply prospects

around the region, a panel of speakers will discuss these issues within the context of the Mojave River Basin.

Water Supply and Growth Prospects in the Mojave Basin (cont.)

The panel will include Kirby Brill, General Manager of the Mojave Water Agency; Randy Hill, General Manager of the Victor Valley Water District; Carlos Rodriguez of the Baldy View Chapter of the Building Industry Association; and Tim Piasky, Environmental Affairs Officer of the Southern California Building Industry Association.

4.4 The Regional Comprehensive Plan **10**

Jacob Lieb, Acting Lead Regional Planner, will brief the Task Force on current plans for preparing the Water Quality and Water Resources chapters of the Regional Comprehensive Plan.

4.5 Ventura County's Matilija Ecosystem Restoration Project **11**

The Matilija Ecosystem Restoration Project is one of the most interesting environmental projects of its kind in the region. Along with largest proposed dam removal in the country, the Project proposes aims to restore watershed habitat, hydrology and recreational amenities without undermining water stewardship practices or increasing public safety risks. Two speakers will describe the Project: Jeff Pratt, Director of Ventura County's Watershed Protection District; and Susan Hughes, a Legislative Analyst with the County.

5.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

6.0 STAFF REPORT

7.0 TASK FORCE INFORMATION SHARING

8.0 COMMENT PERIOD

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the Task Force is scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 2005.

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

February 10, 2004

TO: ***Members of the Water Policy Task Force***

FROM: ***Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, X895, griset@scag.ca.gov***

SUBJECT: ***A Study on the Health Implications of Perchlorate Ingestion and a State Water Resources Board Listening Session in the Region***

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive for future policy consideration of any new statewide stormwater policy proposals and for other findings on the health effects of perchlorate ingestion.

BACKGROUND:

Task Force member, Gerald Greene, D.Env., P.E., will summarize the findings of a recent study on the health effect of perchlorate study conducted by the National Research Council, as well as report on a State Water Resources Control Board "listening session" on stormwater issues held in Diamond Bar on January 12, 2005.

Perchlorate Study

The National Research Council's study on perchlorate, a chemical that in high doses can decrease thyroid function in humans and that has been found in groundwater within the SCAG region, suggests that daily ingestion of up to 0.0007 milligrams per kilogram of body weight can occur without adversely affecting the health of even the most sensitive populations. That amount is more than 20 times the "reference dose" proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in a recent draft risk assessment.

Environmental releases of perchlorate -- a component of rocket fuel and fireworks -- have been discovered in 34 other states as well. More than 11 million people have perchlorate in their drinking water at concentrations of 4 parts per billion or higher. As it considers a first-ever national standard for acceptable levels of perchlorate in drinking water, USEPA has issued a series of draft risk assessments, each containing a reference dose upon which a standard could be based. Controversies over the scientific conclusions reached in the risk assessments, however, led the federal government to request that the National Research Council review the issue.

The most recent EPA risk assessment, published in 2002, proposes a daily reference dose of 0.00003 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) of body weight, which the agency said would correspond to a drinking-water

concentration of 1 part per billion based on certain assumptions about body weight and daily water consumption. The committee that wrote the Research Council report did not include a corresponding drinking-water concentration with its reference dose because the assumptions that are used to derive drinking-water standards involve public-policy choices that were beyond the committee's charge.

Perchlorate inhibits the thyroid's uptake of iodide, which is essential for the production of thyroid hormones. One potential consequence of that effect is low thyroid hormone production, or hypothyroidism. EPA has predicted that an ultimate consequence of that effect is the development of thyroid tumors -- a conclusion the agency based on the occurrence of a few thyroid tumors in rats exposed to perchlorate. The committee disagrees with EPA's conclusion and thinks that perchlorate exposure is unlikely to lead to thyroid tumors in humans. Humans are much less susceptible to disruption of thyroid function or formation of thyroid tumors than rats, and therefore the way rats responded to perchlorate exposure is not a good indicator of how humans would react.

In the past, high doses of perchlorate were used to treat patients with hyperthyroidism, or excessive thyroid hormone production, but a few patients had serious adverse reactions, and the use of perchlorate in this manner was largely abandoned. More recently, patients with hyperthyroidism have been treated effectively and safely with moderate doses of perchlorate for up to two years. Perchlorate has been administered to healthy subjects in doses ranging from 0.007 mg/kg to 9.2 mg/kg per day with no changes in thyroid hormone production to suggest any adverse effect on thyroid function. On the basis of these and other studies, the committee concluded that a perchlorate dose of more than 0.4 mg/kg per day would be required to adversely affect thyroid hormone production and cause hypothyroidism. However, the dose required to cause hypothyroidism in pregnant women, infants, children, and people with low iodide intake or pre-existing thyroid dysfunction might be lower.

There have been studies on the health effects of human populations exposed to perchlorate, but they were studies in which data were available for geographic areas, not for individuals. Relationships observed at the geographic level may not apply at the individual level, and therefore such studies cannot provide direct evidence of causation. They can support a possible association between two events, however, which allowed the committee to reach some conclusions based on those studies. In particular, the committee found that the available evidence is not consistent with an association between exposure to perchlorate in the drinking water at concentrations up to 120 parts per billion during pregnancy and changes in thyroid hormone production in normal-birth weight, full-term newborn infants. The evidence is insufficient to determine whether or not there is an association between perchlorate exposure and adverse neurodevelopmental outcomes in children.

Because of the weaknesses in the studies of the health effects in human populations exposed to perchlorate in the environment, the committee recommended against using them to determine a reference dose. Rather, it recommended using a 2002 clinical study in which groups of healthy men and women were administered perchlorate in daily doses ranging from 0.007 mg/kg to 0.5 mg/kg for 14 days. The study found no statistically significant inhibition of iodide uptake by the thyroid at the 0.007 mg/kg daily dose. The findings in this study are supported by the results in four other studies of healthy subjects, including a six-month study. The committee recommended that an uncertainty factor of 10 be applied to the 0.007 mg/kg per day level to protect the fetuses of pregnant women who might have hypothyroidism or iodide deficiency. This results in the

0.0007 mg/kg per day reference dose recommended in the report.

The committee emphasized that the reference dose should be based on inhibition of iodide uptake by the thyroid in humans, which is not an adverse effect but the key biochemical event that precedes any health effects caused by perchlorate exposure. The committee called this a "conservative, health-protective approach to perchlorate risk assessment." It also suggested studies that have the potential to more precisely define "safe" perchlorate exposures. Future findings could result in the need to adjust the reference dose recommended in the report, the committee acknowledged.

The study was sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Department of Energy, and NASA. The National Research Council is the principal operating arm of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering. It is a private, nonprofit institution that provides scientific and technical advice under a congressional charter.

NOTE: The study report is can be seen at http://www.nap.edu/books/0309095689/html/

State Water Resources Control Board's Listening Session

On January 12, 2005 the State Board (SWRCB) held its southern California Listening Session in Diamond Bar to consider whether there was a need for a statewide guidance document that would assist Regional Water Boards in writing NPDES storm water permits, evaluating compliance, and assessing effectiveness. The meeting was well attended, including representatives from environmental organizations, local governments, development and manufacturing industries.

Environmental advocates called for increased monitoring, additional funding, and the retention of numeric requirements associated with the California Toxics Rule (CTR). These advocates favored inter-jurisdictional consistency, enforcement actions, and the attainment of numeric (beneficial use) objectives.

In contrast, the other 2 dozen speakers noted a variety of challenges facing the current programs and suggested steps that could increase interagency cooperation:

1) Development of the Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP) definition that supports an iterative process for water quality attainment;
2) The State study of future looking program costs;
3) Assessment of the impacts of Proposition 218 limits on assessment and utility district formation;
4) Limitation of program and liability transfers to local agencies without related funding support;
5) Local support for better connecting the Basin Plan with Porter Cologne provisions;
6) Greater responsiveness by Boards to interagency requests and initiatives;
7) Improved uniformity in water quality standards defined by discharge permits within a watershed;
8) Need for a "safe harbor" provision in General Industrial Activities Stormwater Permits (GISAP) until a majority of applicable facilities have been permitted;
9) Development of key information on BMP effectiveness and costs;

10) Greater emphasis on regional SUSMP efforts and projects;
11) Current regional programs can be too scattered and provide only limited assessments of program effectiveness;
12) Need for a greater emphasis on Board/Municipal inspections that utilize existing GI/CASP self monitoring data for identifying and correcting non compliance of dischargers;
13) Shortage of resources for implementing of existing programs;
14) Benefits of focusing limited resources on attacking major polluters rather defending zero numeric standards;
15) Extending MS4, GIASP and GCASP permits while new policy is being developed;
16) Need for better inter-agency synchronization and coordination in water quality, air quality, pesticide and land use regulations;
17) Need for a "safe harbor" with high volume storm flows and discharges from GI/CASP facilities that become MS4 stormwater permit discharges.

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

February 10, 2004

TO: ***Members of the Water Policy Task Force***

FROM: ***Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, X895, griset@scag.ca.gov***

SUBJECT: ***An Introductory Dialogue with Councilmember Mary Ann Lutz***

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive for future dialogue with Regional Board members.

BACKGROUND:

Monrovia City Councilmember Mary Ann Lutz was recently appointed by the Governor to the Regional Water Board. Her appointment to the municipal government seat on the Board brings a business-oriented local official to important environmental policy work in the SCAG region. This is an opportunity for members of the Task Force to get acquainted with Mary Ann and to share views on water quality concerns affecting our region's watersheds.

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board has nine members, representing various roles and experience. The Los Angeles Board includes the following members: Chair Susan Cloke (representing recreation, fish and wildlife), Fran Diamond (public member), David Nahai (water quality), Timothy Shaheen (irrigated agriculture), Bradley Mindlin (industrial water use), Julie Buckner-Levy (water quality), Bonny Herman (county government), and Mary Ann Lutz (municipal government).

The policies set by this Board have been followed widely by other Boards throughout California. This underscores the value of constructive dialogue with Board members as they update the Los Angeles Basin Plan, define beneficial uses of local waterbodies, establish water quality objectives, adopt water quality plans (TMDLs) to eliminate water impairments and issue discharge permits to local governments, businesses and industries.

SCAG has adopted water quality policy that favors "areawide" or watershed initiatives. This policy aims to better combine environmental improvements with cost-effective implementation strategies. Under the rubric of quality of life priorities, this policy is grounded in a commitment to more sustainable watershed management that uses collaboration between local agencies to stretch resources and multiply public benefits.

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

February 10, 2004

TO: ***Members of the Water Policy Task Force***

FROM: ***Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, X895, griset@scag.ca.gov***

SUBJECT: ***Water Supply and Growth Prospects in the Mojave Basin***

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive for any later consideration of a final draft regional water management plan.

BACKGROUND:

In a continuation of Task Force reviews of future growth and water supply prospects around the region, a panel of speakers will discuss these issues within the context of the greater Mojave River Basin. The panel will include Kirby Brill, General Manager of the Mojave Water Agency; Randy Hill, General Manager of the Victor Valley Water District; Carlos Rodriguez of the Baldy View Chapter of the Building Industry Association; and Tim Piasky, Environmental Affairs Officer of the Southern California Building Industry Association.

In SCAG growth projections there will be very substantial growth in the Mojave Basin over the next 25 years. Comparing Year 2000 with the Year 2030 forecast, the Basin will see an increase in population from 304,000 to 610,000; in households from 102,000 to 211,000; in jobs from 83,700 to 245,700. These increases represent a unique water management challenge for the communities growing in this high desert setting.

Kirby Brill, General Manager of the Mojave Water Agency, will introduce the soon-to-be completed Regional Water Management Plan that has been prepared by the Agency. This Plan represents an integrated water planning effort, combining both surface and groundwater supplies. The Agency has played a lead role in large scale water initiatives in the Basin throughout its existence since 1960, a time when the Agency became a state water contractor with rights to State Project Water that it distributed as a wholesaler to retail Basin water agencies. (The map below describes the communities served and the infrastructure developed by the Agency to support these services.)

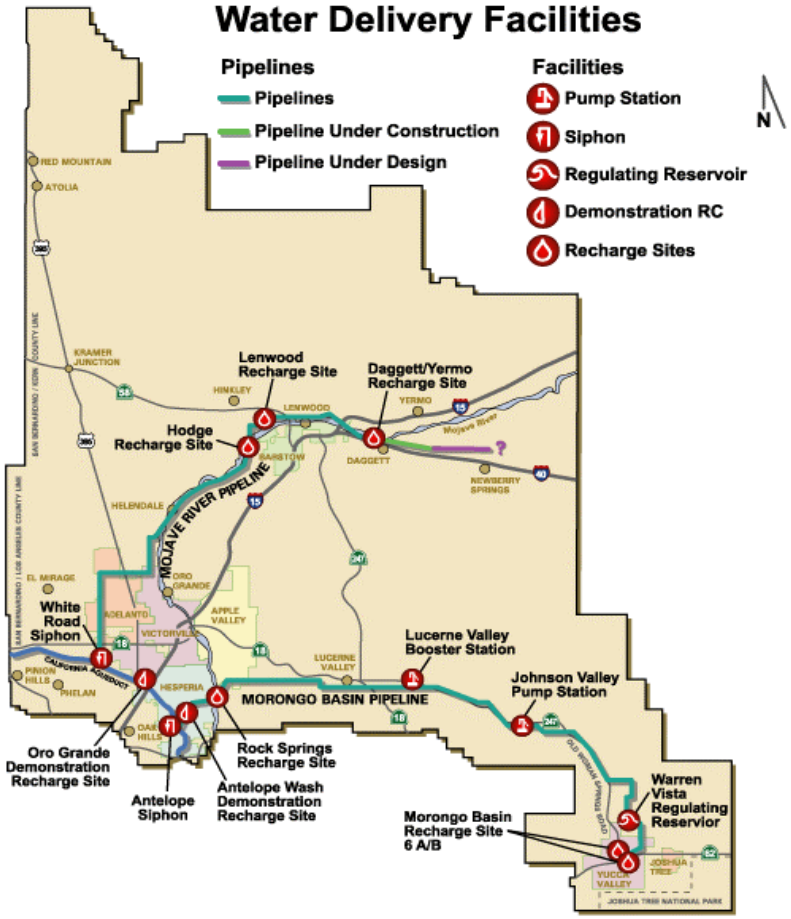
Many of the water affairs of the Basin have been influenced by water shortages and conflicts over water rights. After an extended period of costly litigation over water rights in what had become an overdrafted groundwater basin, the Agency was assigned the watermaster duties by the court. These official duties

involve continuing accounting and management responsibilities that are intended to reverse the depletion of groundwater supplies, to develop replenishment programs for the Basin and to better managing the area's water resources. The Mojave Water Agency's website can be found at http://www.mojavewater.org.

Randy Hill, General Manager of the Victor Valley Water District (VVWD), will discuss the water and growth relationship in the Basin from the standpoint of a retail water agency. VVWD has 65,000 consumers in its high Desert service area. Its $31 million annual budget includes $11 million for operations and $20 million for constructing new facilities. Mr. Hill will describe some of the District's efforts to encourage conservation and reduce the need for residential landscape irrigation, as well as District estimates of future water costs for its customers. The Agency website can be accessed at http://www.vvwater.org/index.cfm.

Carlos Rodriguez and Tim Piasky, staff executives with the Building Industry Association, will present an industry outlook for the Mojave Basin, giving special attention to the water services and infrastructure needs associated with projected future growth.

MAP:



MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

February 10, 2004

TO: ***Members of the Water Policy Task Force***

FROM: ***Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, X895, griset@scag.ca.gov***

SUBJECT: ***The Regional Comprehensive Plan***

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file pending future consideration of updated water chapters.

BACKGROUND:

Jacob Lieb, Acting Lead Regional Planner, will brief the Task Force on current plans for updating the Water Quality and Water Resources chapters of the Regional Comprehensive Plan. The current chapters in the Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide were adopted in 1996. Significant changes in water quality policy within the region have occurred in the interim. This is also true in the water resources area with new state laws now requiring that long-term water supplies be certified by water agencies before land use agencies can approve larger new developments aimed at accommodating future growth throughout the region.

The primary intent of the current Regional Comprehensive Plan update is to collect and consolidate existing regional policy and to formulate implementation action plans for external parties.

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

February 10, 2004

TO: ***Members of the Water Policy Task Force***

FROM: ***Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, X895, griset@scag.ca.gov***

SUBJECT: ***Ventura County's Matilija Ecosystem Restoration Project***

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend that the Energy and Environment Committee support state and federal funding and legislative initiatives required for the successful implementation of the Matilija Ecosystem Restoration Project.

BACKGROUND:

The Matilija Ecosystem Restoration Project is one of the most interesting environmental projects of its kind in the country. This uniqueness owes to the proposed removal of the Matilija Dam (originally constructed to a height of 198 feet), the largest dam demolition project proposed in the nation. Along with the dam removal the Project aims to restore the watershed hydrology and habitat that was critically compromised by the construction of the dam in 1947.

Two speakers who are intimately familiar with the Project will explain its features and challenges to the Task Force: Jeff Pratt, Director of Ventura County's Watershed Protection District (WPD); and Susan Hughes, a Legislative Analyst with the County.

Working in conjunction with the Bureau of Reclamation and the Army Corps of Engineers, the WPD, as owner of Matilija Dam, is the sponsor of this $130 million project. Community and water agency support for this project has developed in recent years as public understanding of watershed issues has grown. Initially, however, the nature of the project sparked opposition from various Ventura County water agencies and flood control advocates. That opposition has diminished as the mitigation planning process has resolved concerns and fears.

General public support for the project has grown as stakeholders became increasingly aware of the nearly complete obsolescence and impairments of the Dam, a facility that was constructed originally to create storage for agricultural needs and to a lesser extent provide flood control benefits. Currently, however, the Dam reservoir has accumulated nearly 6 million cubic years of debris and sediment, reducing its water storage by more than 93% of its original designed capacity (from about 7,000 acre feet to now about 400 acre feet). With current trends the Dam's reservoir is expected to lose its entire storage capacity and any of the few

remaining flood control benefits by 2020. The drainage area behind the Dam is the Matilija Creek watershed with its 55 square miles, some 15 miles upstream from the Pacific Ocean and a tributary to the Ventura River.

The objectives of this restoration project include habitat restoration (improving aquatic and terrestrial habitat to benefit fish and wildlife species), hydrological restoration (restoring the river's hydrologic and sediment transport conditions to pre-dam conditions) and recreational amenities (returning the dam property to the US Forest Service to become an outdoor education and recreation site).

Though the County has approved the project's environmental studies and nearly $400,000 in federal funding has been approved, the next hurdle is funding for the project's design and engineering. The budget for this key implementation phase is about $6.5 million. The overall financial strategy for the project anticipates that local agencies will fund 35% of the project costs.

NOTE: The website for the Project can be found at http://www.matilijadam.org/.

Map of the Ventura River Watershed: